

8th International H-2/HLA Workshop

Correspondence:

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July 11, 1991.

Dr. Harmon C. McAllister
Research Director
Council for Tobacco Research
900 3rd Ave
New York, NY 10022

Dear Doctor McAllister

I am writing concerning the possibility of support by the Tobacco Research Council of the 8th International H-2/HLA Workshop. Since its inception as the H-2/HLA Cloning Workshop, this meeting has been a major venue for workers in the molecular biology of the major histocompatibility complex. It is a major focus for workers who are interested in the broad range of molecular issues of the major histocompatibility complex. In recent years, it has been a forum for initial descriptions and discussions, not only of the genes themselves, as was its original intent, but on the regulation of those genes at the molecular level, as well as, the use of molecular technologies to probe the function of those genes in antigen presentation.

Thus, we anticipate this meeting in April of 1992, following by 23 months the previous meeting held in May 1990, will continue to focus on these major issues. The H-2/HLA Meeting has been, and will continue to be a working meeting for specialists in this area of Immunogenetics. There will be a large number of highly specialized talks, all offered by the invited participants. We anticipate it will focus on two major issues, the role of the MHC in antigen processing and presentation, and the genetic regulation of the MHC. However, all aspects of the MHC will be involved. The meeting has been organized in a venue which is isolated but pleasant, which will allow maximum informal interaction among participants. We believe this is a crucial factor in the success of these meetings.

Thus, this is an important meeting in this area. The format of the meeting is to select speakers from submitted abstracts. The important issue is that the biology of the MHC become crystallized by the presentation of leading laboratories in this venue. The abstracts are submitted very late, only about two months before the meeting, allowing investigators to present their most recent work. Further, it allows the program to be designed to emphasize the most interesting areas in the studies of MHC. While this is a disadvantage in planning the meeting itself, it provides enormous advantages in the outcome of the meeting which can then focus on the most important issues of MHC biology of the time.

It might be considered dangerous to select speakers only from the list of submitted abstracts. I think in many meetings this would be the case. However, given the track record of this meeting, and the desirable location, I think it is unlikely to present any significant risk. For example, the most recent meeting abstracts were received for Townsend, Ploegh, Cresswell, and Hammerling, all on the Biology of the RMA5 mutant. This all occurred at the time before any of these results were published.

We will be assisted in this by the organizing committee. The organizing committee consists of Fran Ward and Peter Cresswell from Duke University, Victor Englehard from the University of Virginia, Al Baldwin, Stephen Hunt, Jenny Ting and myself from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We will be assisted by Stan Nathenson, Albert Einstein, Hugh McDevitt, Stanford, and Jack Strominger, Harvard.

I have enclosed a copy of the previous Workshop, held last year in Elmau, Germany for you information.

If I can supply any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



J.A. Frelinger, Ph.D.